



Adelaide Advertiser
Thursday 18/2/2010
Page: 25
Section: General News
Region: Adelaide Circulation: 180,853
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 51.62 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTFSS-

Brief: COTA

Get real on costs, seniors tell Rann

UTILITY concessions should be tied to real increases in costs, the state's peak welfare group states.

The call follows a pre-election announcement by Premier Mike Rann promising all concessions would increase by 5 per cent each year on July 1, until 2012.

Energy concessions, for example, will rise from \$120 to a maximum of \$150 a year.

SA Council of Social Services executive director Ross Womersley welcomed the extra help for the elderly and low-income earners but said his organisation had been pushing for utility concessions to be tied to "real increases" in costs. That was done with sewerage and electricity concessions in Tasmania, he said.

Council on the Ageing Seniors Voice chief executive Ian Yates appreciated the concessions but said the same rise in water concessions was "inadequate given that water prices will double over the next five years".